

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07894

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MORG, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SPANISH TO OBSERVE NATO FALL
EXERCISE

REF: MADRID 09778 (DTG 250856Z AUG 78)

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SUMMARY: WE SUPPORT EMBASSY MADRID'S PROPOSALS FOR
INCREASED SPANISH OBSERVER PRESENCE AT THIS YEAR'S AUTUMN
FORGE EXERCISE SERIES. IN PAST MONTHS WE HAVE INFORMALLY
ENCOURAGED DELEGATIONS HERE TO INVITE SPANISH OBSERVERS
WHEN POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT
PRESSING THE QUESTION IN FORMAL NATO FORA, PARTICULARLY
WITH RESPECT TO "NATO" EXERCISES AS AGAINST THOSE WHICH
ARE NATIONAL OR MULTI-NATIONAL. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE
PARAS 4 AND 5. END SUMMARY.

1. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT STRONGLY INVITING SPANISH
MILITARY OFFICERS TO SELECTED AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISES
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AND HAVE INFORMALLY ENCOURAGED ALLIES HERE TO USE
EXERCISES WHENEVER FEASIBLE AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF ED-
UCATING SPAIN ABOUT NATO.

2. SPANISH OBSERVERS ROUTINELY SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE
THREE MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES (BLAUE DONAU, CERTAIN
SHIELD AND SAXON DRIVE) BEING NOTIFIED IN THE CSCE CONTEXT

SINCE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL CSCE SIGNATORY NATIONS WITH EMBASSIES IN BONN(THE FRG IS THE HOST IN EACH CASE) ARE SCHEDULED TO BE INVITED.

3. WE SUPPORT EMBASSY MADRID'S PLAN TO IDENTIFY FOUR SPANISH GENERAL OFFICERS TO BE INVITED BY USCINCEUR TO CERTAIN SHIELD AND CARDINAL SWORD. HOWEVER, WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO KEEP THE FRG AUTHORITIES ADVISED. WE BELEIVE TOO THAT THE OTHER ALLIES CONCERNED SHOULD BE APPROACHED PRIOR TO OBSERVATION OF ANY PHASE INVOLVING OTHER THAN US UNITS.

4. AS DISTINCT FROM "OBSERVATION" NOTED PARA 3, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT OTHER PARTICIPATING NATIONS CAN BE CONVINCED TO EXTEND SUPPLEMENTARY INVITATIONS TO THOSE WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO THE SPANISH UNDER CSCE PROCEDURES TO CERTAIN SHIELD (US, FRG, UK, BE, AND LU), BLAUE DONAU (US, FRG AND CA) AND SAXON DRIVE (US, NL AND FRG). HOWEVER, IF WASHINGTON AGREES WE WILL APPROACH SLECTED DELEGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS WITH THE SUGGESTION. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

5. RED TORNADO, SPONSORED BY BELGIUM AND HOSTED BY THE FRG, IS THE PRINCIPAL MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISE RELEVANT IN A CSCE CONTEXT TO WHICH OBSERVERS ARE NOT BEING INVITED UNDER CBMS. BELGIUM AND THE US ARE PARTICIPATING. SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON WISH, WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO APPROACH THE BELGIANS AT NATO ABOUT A POSSIBLE INVITATION TO SPANISH OBSERVERS. HOWEVER, BEFORE DOING SO WE SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF THE NEGATIVE BELGIAN REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT SPANISH OBSERVERS BE INVITED TO BLUE FOX IN 1977. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

6. WITH REGARD TO "NATO" (I.E. DISPLAY DETERMINATION) VS MULTI-NATIONAL (I.E., CERTAIN SHIELD) MANEUVERS, WE CONTINUE TO BELEIVE THAT INVITATIONS TO SPANISH OBSERVERS SHOULD NOT BE PRESSED SINCE FORMAL ALLIANCE CLEARANCE WOULD BE NEEDED. THIS WOULD REQUIRE CONSENSUS AND COULD RESULT IN A REJECTION SIMILAR TO THE REACTION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH OBSERVERS AT THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE. IN GENERAL, WE STILL BELIEVE IT BEST TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES INVOLVING FEWER ALLIES AND TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT RAISING THE QUESTION OF FORMAL NATO APPROVAL. BENNETT

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